

Guidelines for selection of LPG/petrol pump outlets

387. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy guidelines for the LPG and Petrol Pump outlet selection framed by the Ministry for the Dealer Selection Board (DSB);

(b) if so, the detailed policy under which this whole selection process takes place in the country;

(c) whether the policy guidelines specify all the reservations and other quotas in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Ministry had issued guidelines on 9.10.2000 for selection of retail outlet (RO) dealers/LPG distributors/Kerosene (SKO-LDO) dealers through Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs). However, with the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) w.e.f. 1.4.2002, DSBs were dissolved on 9.5.2002 and public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) were given commercial freedom to formulate and adopt their own guidelines in the selection of location, RO dealership/LPG distributorship/SKO-LDO dealership. In order to ensure transparency and objective criteria for selection of dealership/distributorship uniformly among OMCs, broad guidelines were issued on 19.8.2003. These guidelines *inter alia* provided:—

- (i) The percentage of reservation for various sections of society shall be in the prescribed ratio.
- (ii) The Corpus Fund Scheme shall continue.
- (iii) There shall be no ceiling on the income of the prospective allottees.
- (iv) Only one dealership may be allowed to a family unit, consisting of the individual concerned, his/her spouse and unmarried sons/daughters.

- (v) A certain degree of uniformity must be ensured across the Industry in assigning marks to the applicants under the different criteria. More weightage may be given to capability in providing land and infrastructural facilities, educational qualification, ability to provide finance, etc.

(c) and (d) The guidelines provide 50% reservation for different sections of society as follows:

(i) Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	25%
(ii) Defence Category (DC)	8%
(iii) Para-military/Police/Government personnel (PMP)	8%
(iv) Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	5%
(v) Freedom Fighters (FF)	2%
(vi) Outstanding Sports Persons (OSP)	2%

In view of the fact that the majority population in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram belong to the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the percentage reservation of dealerships etc. for STs in these States has been made in line with the ST population percentage (rounded to the nearest ten) and the same are as under:—

State	For ST	Percentage to Open Category
Arunachal Pradesh	70%	30%
Meghalaya	80%	20%
Nagaland	80%	20%
Mizoram	90%	10%

Further, 33% of the dealership/distributorship in each of the category mentioned above is reserved for women belonging to that category.

The above reservation is being followed by OMCs.

SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that after formation of new selection board for dealership of petrol pumps and kerosene oil, that is, OMC, with effect from 19th August, 2003, how many dealerships have been allotted to the SCs, the

STs and the women categories? Here, the hon. Minister has stated that there is no reservation for women categories. So, I would like to know whether there is any reservation for women in the new guideline policy or not.

श्री दिन्शा जे० पटेल: सर, एस०सी०, एस०टी० के लिए भी रिजर्वेशन है और वूमन कैटेगरी के लिए भी जो कोई कैटेगरी है उसमें वन थर्ड वूमन कैटेगरी के लिए रिजर्व है। इसलिए कोई कैटेगरी नहीं रखी गई, ऐसा नहीं है। जो कैटेगरी है उसमें वूमन कैटेगरी भी वन थर्ड उसके लिए रिजर्व रखी गई है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Development of Konni as major eco-tourism project in Kerala

*383. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Kerala has proposed to develop Konni as a major eco-tourism project;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the outlay involved in the project;

(c) whether it is a Centrally funded project;

(d) whether the Centre proposes to encourage such projects in the backward States i.e. Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar etc. to improve their economy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The State Government of Kerala had submitted a project proposal of Rs. 999.90 lakh with Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 800.00 lakh for Integrated Development of Eco-Tourism circuit on Neyyar-Ponmudi-Thenmala-Konni-Gavi-Thekkady-Munnar-Chinnar-Parambikulam-Nelkiampathy sector in Kerala. After appraisal of the project proposal as per guidelines of the Ministry of Tourism, it was sanctioned on 7.12.2006